

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-55 are pending in this Application. In the Office Action mailed December 13, 2004, the Examiner requested the claims be restricted to one of three inventions that include:

- I. Claims 1-18, drawn to a product segment, classified in class 428, subclass 143;
- II. Claims 19-36, drawn to a roll of material, classified in class 428, subclass 906;
- III. Claims 37-55 drawn to a process, classified in class 72, subclass 127.

Applicants respectfully address the basis for the Examiner's restriction requirement below.

Restriction/Election

Applicants provisionally elect invention III - claims 37-55 drawn to a process - with traverse for continued prosecution. Applicants, however, respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement for the following reasons:

Traversal

Traversal is argued on the grounds that a thorough search of the subject matter of Groups I and II (Claims 1-18 and 19-36, respectively) would necessarily include art class 428. As such, examination of these claims would impose no additional burden on the Patent Office. *See* MPEP 803. In addition, with respect to Groups II and III, Applicants traverse the Examiner's assertion that the product as claimed can be made by a materially different process such as one which injection molds the substrate into a coil shape and therefore requires no rolling step as recited in the process. The Examiner has not shown that the product can be made by such a process, and as such, the restriction is improper. Furthermore, authority is granted under 35 U.S.C. § 121 for the Examiner to make a restriction requirement when two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one application. The language in 35 U.S.C. § 121 is permissive and not mandatory. Thus, the Commissioner is allowed discretion in making a restriction requirement.

CONCLUSION

In light of the remarks and arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration by the Examiner and withdrawal of the restriction requirement. Applicants further submit that the pending claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and request favorable consideration and allowance of these claims.

Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees, other than the issue fee, that may be required by this paper to Deposit Account 07-0153.

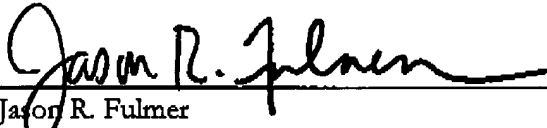
If the Examiner has any questions or comments, or if further clarification is required, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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